CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF ROGERSVILLE, TENNESSEE

CHAPTER 519

Senate Bill No. 1039

(By Mr. Cox)

A BILL to be entitled AN Act to reincorporate the town of Rogersville, In Hawkins County, and to create the office of the Justice of the Peace for said town.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION                      PAGE

1. Incorporation, name, and general corporate powers ................................................. C-3

2. Enumerated corporate powers to be exercised by ordinance ............................................... C-3

3. Board of mayor and aldermen--qualifications, number of aldermen, election, terms, and termination

1Priv. Acts 1911, ch. 519, is the current basic charter act for the Town of Rogersville, Tennessee. The text of the basic charter act set out herein was last amended to reflect legislation passed in the 2008 session of the Tennessee General Assembly and is current with the laws from the 2023 Regular Session of the 113th Tennessee General Assembly. Sections of the charter which have been amended contain at the end of those sections the citation to the official act or acts constituting the amendment or amendments. No other changes have been made to the charter except the addition of a table of contents to facilitate its use. A list of all the acts including the basic charter appears at the end of the charter.

Acts which did not expressly or in effect amend any particular section or part of the basic charter, but which supplemented it, have been placed after the basic charter act as "Related Acts."

Acts of a temporary nature with no general or continuing application, such as bond authorization and validation acts have not been included in this compilation.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SECTION</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4. Appointment, duties, dismissal, compensation, of recorder, chief of police, and other officers, agents, and servants; power of chief of police to serve process</td>
<td>C-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Oaths of mayor and aldermen and other officers</td>
<td>C-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Elections, dates of terms of office; qualifications of voters</td>
<td>C-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Election procedure</td>
<td>C-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Certification of election results</td>
<td>C-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Taxes</td>
<td>C-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Taxation--duties of recorder, due date, delinquent date, and collection</td>
<td>C-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Legislative procedures and proceedings; duties of mayor; duties of recorder; recorder's court; duties of treasurer; bonds of recorder, treasurer, and chief of police</td>
<td>C-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Fees received by the recorder, chief of police, and treasurer</td>
<td>C-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Recorder--duties and compensation</td>
<td>C-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Power of the mayor to appoint committees and police officers</td>
<td>C-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Police authority and compensation of the chief of police</td>
<td>C-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Board of mayor and aldermen--termination of office</td>
<td>C-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Charter constitutes a public act</td>
<td>C-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Corporate limits</td>
<td>C-15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INCORPORATION, NAME, AND GENERAL CORPORATE POWERS

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, That the town of Rogersville, in the County of Hawkins, and the inhabitants thereof, be, and are, hereby constituted a body politic and corporate, under and by the style and name of the "Town of Rogersville," and shall have perpetual succession. By their corporate name may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded in all courts of law and equity and in all actions whatsoever; may purchase, receive, and hold property, real and personal within the said town and beyond the limits thereof for the erection and keeping up of waterworks, workhouses, houses of correction, and other public buildings for the use of said corporation, and for other corporate purposes; and may sell, lease, or dispose of the same for the benefit of said town, and do all other acts touching the same as natural persons might; and may have and use a common seal, which it may change at pleasure.

ENUMERATED CORPORATE POWERS TO BE EXERCISED BY ORDINANCE

Section 2. Be it further enacted, That the Mayor and Town Council of the town of Rogersville shall, within the limitations of this Act, have power, by ordinance:

1. Taxes. To levy and collect taxes for general purposes of said corporation upon all property and polls taxable by the laws of the State.
2. **Appropriations.** To appropriate money and to provide for the payment of the debts and expenses of said corporation.

3. **Privilege taxes.** To levy and collect taxes for general purposes upon merchants and any or all of the privileges taxable by the laws of the State, the rate upon merchants to be such as the Mayor and Town Council may provide for, not being in excess of the rates collected by the State.

4. **Contagious diseases.** To make regulations to prevent the introduction and spread of contagious diseases in the town, or to appoint a Board of Health for the purpose, and to enforce the same within one mile of the town limits.

5. **Nuisances.** To make regulations to secure the general health of the inhabitants and to prevent and remove nuisances.

6. **Streets.** To open, alter, abolish, widen, extend, establish, grade, pave, or otherwise improve, clean, and keep in repair the streets and alleys of said town or to have or cause the same to be done; and shall have power by proper proceedings in court to condemn and appropriate real estate within the corporate limits for the purpose of laying out and opening streets and alleys and improving the same.

7. **Sidewalks.** To regulate and provide for the construction of sidewalks and foot pavements along the streets of said town by the owners of lots bordering on said street, the town to pay one-half the expenses thereof; and if any owner or owners of any such lot shall fail to comply with the provisions of any ordinance requiring such owner or owners to build or repair sidewalks after due notice, the corporation shall have authority and right to build or construct same and pay therefor entirely out of any money especially appropriated for that purpose, when the one-half of such amount so paid shall become and be a lien upon said lot or lots, and payment of the same shall be enforced in any court of competent jurisdiction under such proceedings brought in the name of the corporation, and such lien shall only be discharged upon full payment of the same; provided, that the said corporation shall be at all expense of placing good and substantial guttering and curbstones at the edges of such pavements when necessary.

8. **Bridges, etc.** To erect, establish, and keep in repair bridges, culverts, sewers, and gutters.

9. **Lighting.** To provide for lighting the streets and public buildings and places, and to manufacture and/or purchase electrical energy for its own use and/or for sale and distribution to the persons, firms and corporations of said town for light and power and to make and execute all contracts and to do all acts reasonably necessary to carry out the powers conferred by this section.

10. **Markets.** To erect market houses or to establish markets and regulate the same.

11. **Buildings and grounds.** To provide for the erecting or leasing of all buildings necessary for the use of the town, and for the inclosing, improving, and
regulating all public grounds in the town and belonging to the town outside of the corporate limits.

12. **Licensing; liquor.** To license, tax, or regulate everything or person licensed, taxed, or regulated by the State, unless otherwise enacted by the State, and to regulate the sale of all spirituous and malt liquors, rum, and cider in said town.

13. **Gambling; prostitution.** To regulate and suppress gambling and gambling houses, disorderly houses, bawdy houses, and houses of ill fame, or assignation houses, and all houses where one or more men and women meet for the purpose of prostitution or illicit cohabitation, and to fix the punishment for same.

14. **Weapons; fireworks.** To prevent and suppress the carrying of weapons, concealed or otherwise, prohibited by general laws; also to regulate the sale of firearms as now provided by law, and to regulate the storage, use, and sale of firecrackers and other fireworks, explosives, combustibles, and toy pistols.

15. **Weights and measures.** To provide for the inspection, weighing, and measuring of stone, coal, wood, and fuel brought to or sold in market or for use of the citizens of said town.

16. **Fires.** To provide for the extinguishment and prevention of fires, or organize and establish fire companies, and to regulate the carrying on of manufactures that may be dangerous in causing or producing fires; and, when necessary for public safety, to prohibit the erection of wooden buildings in crowded parts of the said town.

17. **Schools.** To establish a system of free schools and maintain them by taxation and to regulate said school so as to avoid sectarian influences. Provided that no member of the Town Council or official of the Town of Rogersville shall be eligible to membership on the school board of said town during his or her term of office, provided, further, that this Act shall not apply to any member of the present school board of said town who is now a member of the Town Council or official of said town, as much member or members of said school board are eligible to continue as members of the school board until the expiration of their terms of office as members of the schoolboard of said town of Rogersville.

18. **Fire district.** To designate and fix a fire district or districts, and make such rules and regulations as to the construction or repair of all buildings within said territory for the prevention of fire or the spread thereof.

19. **Fines and penalties.** To impose fines, forfeitures, and penalties for the breach of any ordinance, and to provide for their recovery and appropriation.

20. **Disorderly conduct, etc.** To provide for the arrest, punishment, and imprisonment of any person guilty of riotous or disorderly conduct within the town by day or night; for the punishment of all breaches of the peace, noise, disturbance, or disorderly assemblies.
21. **Confinement; appearance bonds.** To provide for the arrest and confinement of all persons violating any of the corporate ordinances until trial, or for their release on appearance bonds until trial.

22. **Special police force.** To provide for the appointment of special police force when the same shall be deemed necessary, and as may be determined by the Council by ordinance.

23. **Animals at large; pound.** To regulate, tax, license, or suppress the running of stock at large of all animals within the corporate limits, to provide pounds for the confinement of the same, and to impound them, and in default of redemption to sell or dispose of same in manner provided by ordinances of corporation.

24. **Ordinances.** To pass all ordinances not contrary to the Constitution and laws of the State that may be necessary to carry out the full intent and meaning of the objects of the incorporation of said town.

25. **Failure to pay fines.** To commit any person who may fail or refuse to pay or secure any fine or cost imposed on him or her in pursuance of any ordinance of said corporation to the prison or workhouse of said town, or to jail or workhouse of Hawkins County, until such fine and cost be fully paid or secured; every person so committed to said prison, jail, or workhouse shall be required to work for the town at such labor as his or her health and strength will permit, or without such prison, jail, or workhouse not exceeding ten hours per day, and for such work the person so employed shall be allowed, exclusive of his board, not less than forty cents per day for each day worked as a credit upon such fine and cost until the same is fully discharged, when he or she shall be released; **provided,** that no person shall be compelled to work longer than three months for any offense.

26. **Contract for county workhouse.** To contract with the county of Hawkins to be allowed to commit prisoners to jail or workhouse of said county upon terms to be agreed upon.

27. **Digest of ordinances.** To prepare and have published in pamphlet form, for general distribution, a digest or compilation of all ordinances and resolutions of a public nature, passed for the government of said town or corporation, or in force within six months after the passage of this Act, and as often thereafter as same may be needed.

28. **Conflicts of interest.** Members of the Town Council shall become a bondsman for any agent, officer, or servant of the town, or to be interested directly or indirectly in any contract with the corporation, or in which the corporation is pecuniarily concerned; nor shall any officer of the Town Council vote on any proposition in which he has a pecuniary interest.

29. **Qualifications of members; elections, vacancies.** To judge of the qualifications, elections, and returns of its own officers; to prescribe rules for the determination of contested elections, and to determine all questions in cases of ties in any election; to determine how vacancies shall be filled and to rule for the government of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.
30. Emergency expenditures; bonds. Whenever in the opinion of the Board of Mayor and Alderman of said town an emergency has arisen that requires the expenditure of any sum or sums not immediately available from current revenues, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen shall have the right to take such action as may be necessary to overcome such emergency, and to that end may issue and sell interest-bearing negotiable warrants of said town, at such rate of interest (not in excess of 6%) and of such maturities as the Board of Mayor and Aldermen may order and direct, and use the proceeds thereof to meet the emergency confronting the town; provided, however, that at no time shall said issue of warrants exceed the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars, and which, when issued, shall be the incontestable obligation of said town, and shall not be liable for state, county, or municipal taxes; and, provided, further, that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of said town shall have the right and power to prescribe the form of said warrants and interest coupons thereto attached.

31. Regulation of use of streets, etc. To regulate and control the use of the public streets, highways, alleys, and sidewalks within said town.

32. Taxicabs. To provide for the issuance of permits to all taxicabs and other public conveyances operating in whole or in part within said town; to limit the number of taxicabs or other public conveyances operating within said town; to require the owners of such taxicabs and other public conveyances to file with the town an indemnity bond or insurance policy, for the benefit of person who may suffer damages by reason of the operation of such conveyances; and to provide for the punishment of persons operating any such taxicabs or other means of public conveyance without first having obtained such permit. [As amended by Priv. Acts 1921, ch. 269, § 1; Priv. Acts 1931, ch. 702, § 1; Priv. Acts 1933, ch. 194, § 1; Priv. Acts 1933, ch. 471, § 1(a); Priv. Acts 1949, ch. 80, § 1; Priv. Acts 1961, ch. 203, § 1; and Priv. Acts 1971, ch. 133, § 1]

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN--QUALIFICATIONS, NUMBER OF ALDERMEN, ELECTION, TERMS, AND TERMINATION OF OFFICE

Section 3. Be it further enacted, That the officers of said corporation, to be elected as hereinafter provided, shall be a Mayor and Board of Aldermen, all of whom shall be citizens of and qualified voters in said town, and shall have resided therein immediately preceding their election for the period of one year. The Board of Aldermen shall consist of six members, to be chosen by the


2For other provisions dealing with the election of the mayor and aldermen and their terms of office, see sections 6, 7, 8, 11, and 16 of the charter.
qualified voters of said town for a period of four years; and the Mayor or any Alderman removing from said town shall vacate his office.

Be it further enacted,¹ That at the next regular meeting of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen after this Act becomes effective, they shall name one of the aldermen as vice-mayor, who shall serve as mayor in the absence or incapacity of the mayor. [As amended by Priv. Acts 1965, ch. 189, § 9; and Priv. Acts 1989, ch. 36, § 1]

**APPOINTMENT, DUTIES, DISMISSAL, AND COMPENSATION OF RECORDER, CHIEF OF POLICE, AND OTHER OFFICERS, AGENTS, AND SERVANTS; POWER OF CHIEF OF POLICE TO SERVE PROCESS³**

Section 4. Be it further enacted, That the Board of Mayor and Aldermen shall, at the first meeting after their election to office, elect a Recorder, Chief of Police, and such other officers, agents, and servants as they may deem necessary and may provide for by ordinance, and shall have power to prescribe the duties of same, if not fixed by this Act. The Board shall have power to dismiss any officer, agent, or servant elected or appointed by them for any misdemeanor, misconduct, or incapacity to properly discharge the duties of such office as he may hold, two-thirds of the Aldermen voting in favor of such dismissal. The Board shall also fix the salaries of the Mayor and Aldermen succeeding them in office, which compensation shall not be changed by any new Board during their continuance in office. The Chief of Police shall in addition to the powers hereinbefore and hereinafter specially set out have power to execute within the limits of the town of Rogersville, Hawkins County, any and all processes issued by Justices of the Peace the same as Constables have under the laws of the State. [As amended by Priv. Acts 1929, ch. 298, § 1(a); Priv. Acts 1965, ch. 189, § 1; Priv. Acts 1967, ch. 49, § 1; and Priv. Acts 1974, ch. 265, § 1]

¹This paragraph, being Priv. Acts 1965, ch. 189, § 9, apparently was intended to amend the charter generally. In the discretion of the codifier it was added to this section; consequently, it is not an official amendment of this section.

²For more specific provisions regarding the powers, duties, and compensation of the recorder, see sections 10, 11, 12, and 13 of the charter.

³For more specific provisions regarding the powers, duties, and compensation of the chief of police and other police officers, see sections 12 and 13 of the charter.
OATHS OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN AND OTHER OFFICERS

Section 5. Be it further enacted, That the Mayor and Aldermen before entering upon the duties of office, and all other officers appointed by them, shall take an oath, to be administered by the Recorder or a Justice of the Peace, to faithfully, honestly, and impartially discharge all their official duties, and to support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Tennessee.

ELECTION; DATES OF TERMS OF OFFICE; QUALIFICATIONS OF VOTERS

Section 6. Be it further enacted, That the election for Mayor and Aldermen of said town of Rogersville shall be held by the Chief of Police of said corporation, aided by two clerks only and three judges, all of whom shall be legal voters of said town, on the first Saturday of February every four years, after giving ten days' notice. The voters shall vote by ballot and under such rules and regulations as the Board of Mayor and Aldermen may prescribe by ordinance, as to time, place, etc., of voting. The officers thus elected shall go into office on the second Saturday of February following their election, and shall hold office for the period of four years or until their successors are duly elected and qualified. Provided that at the February election, 1966, for such officials to be held as provided above, such officials shall be elected for a term to expire on the first day of July, 1967. Thereafter, such election will be held on the First Saturday in June each odd year and such officials will take office on the first day of July following their elections, and shall hold until their successors are duly elected and qualified. The following shall be the qualifications for voting at such elections:

1. Each voter shall be qualified to vote for state and county officers, and shall as a prerequisite to voting in municipal elections have paid his or her state and county poll tax levied for the year previous to said election, and his or her municipal poll taxes levied or legally assessable for the two years previous to said election.

2. He shall have resided for six months next preceding the election within the town limits, as hereinafter designated and defined, or shall be a bona fide owner of real estate within the limits of said town, as shown by assessment next preceding his offer to vote.

3. A voter's residence is hereby defined to be the place where he habitually sleeps. [As amended by Priv. Acts 1933, ch. 471, § 1(b); Priv. Acts 1965, ch. 189, §§ 1 and 2; and Priv. Acts 1989, ch. 36, § 2]

1 See also section 3 of the charter and footnotes thereto.
ELECTION PROCEDURE

Section 7. Be it further enacted, That the judges and clerks to hold the election shall be sworn according to the election law of the State, and the election shall be conducted as the State and county elections are, by virtue of the law of the State. The judges and clerks shall file the poll lists and tally sheets with the county election commission within two days after the election, who shall preserve the same. [As amended by Priv. Acts 1965, ch. 189, § 3]

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

Section 8. Be it further enacted, That the persons receiving the highest number of votes, respectively for mayor and alderman, shall be declared elected, and it shall be the duty of the officer holding such election to make out and deliver to the county election commission the election results as prescribed by law, and the county election commission shall issue a certificate of election to such elected officials. [As amended by Priv. Acts 1965, ch. 189, § 4]

TAXES

Section 9. Be it further enacted, That all property, real, personal, and mixed, subject to the State and county taxes, and all persons liable for poll taxes, when the same shall have become assessed for taxation as now, or may hereafter be, provided by law by the assessor or assessors directed to be appointed or elected under the general laws of the State, shall be the basis upon which property shall be taxed and taxes collected by the Mayor and Aldermen of the town of Rogersville for municipal purposes.

TAXATION--DUTIES OF RECORDER, DUE DATE, DELINQUENT DATE, AND COLLECTION

Section 10. Be it further enacted that as soon as practicable after said assessment books are complete it shall be the duty of the Recorder of the town to obtain therefrom a list of all such properties and persons as are liable for taxation within the limits and boundaries of said Town of Rogersville; and from

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1See also section 3 of the charter and footnotes thereto.

2For other provisions dealing with taxes and taxation, see sections 10 and 19 of the charter.

3See also section 9 of the charter and the footnote thereto.

4See also section 4 of the charter and footnote 1 thereto.
such list, adding thereto any names of persons or properties erroneously omitted and liable in such manner as they shall prescribe by ordinance and as provided otherwise by law, levy such taxes as may be required for corporate purposes, which taxes shall become due and payable on October 1, of each year, and shall become delinquent on January 1st thereafter. Said taxes so levied and assessed shall be collected by the Recorder of the town, who shall be required to give a bond payable to the Town of Rogersville in such sum as may be fixed by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, not to exceed the aggregate levy, conditioned for his faithful accounting and paying over the taxes so collected.

All taxes not paid by January 1st of the year succeeding the year for which said taxes were levied may be collected by the Recorder from the books as upon a distress warrant, if personal property of the taxpayer can be found upon which to make levy. If no personal property of the taxpayer can be found, then a bill may be filed in the name of the municipality against the delinquent taxpayer for the collection of such taxes, and the same shall be and continue a lien upon the property against which assessed until paid. The same penalties for delinquency shall apply to municipal taxes as to state and county taxes. [As amended by Priv. Acts 1925, ch. 477, § 1(1); and Priv. Acts 1965, ch. 189, § 5]

LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES AND PROCEEDINGS; DUTIES OF MAYOR;¹ DUTIES OF RECORDER;² RECORDER’S COURT;³ DUTIES OF TREASURER;⁴ BONDS OF RECORDER, TREASURER, AND CHIEF OF POLICE

Section 11. Be it further enacted, That a majority of the Town Council shall be a quorum to transact business. The Mayor shall hold his office for four years and until his successor shall be duly elected and qualified, and a vacancy in the office shall be filled by the Town Council. It shall be the duty of the Mayor to preside at all meetings of the Council, to vote at the election of all officers elected or appointed by the Board and in all cases where there is a tie vote. All ordinances or resolutions shall be approved and signed by the Mayor on or before the next meeting of the Council, and the Mayor shall have veto power, and if he shall refuse to approve any ordinance or resolution, he shall return the same to the Council at its next meeting, with his reasons for such

¹For additional powers and duties of the mayor, see section 14 of the charter.

²See also section 4 of the charter and footnote thereto.

³See also section 20 of the charter.

⁴See particularly section 13 of the charter for provisions relating to the abolition of the office of treasurer; see also section 12 of the charter.
refusal in writing, and said ordinance or resolution shall not be valid unless the Council by a vote of two-thirds shall again pass the same, notwithstanding the Mayor’s veto; but if the Mayor does not veto same as provided, it shall be valid without his signature. The Mayor shall also take care that the ordinances of the town are duly enforced within the town limits, shall call special meetings of the Council when he shall deem expedient, and shall perform such other duties as the Town Council shall, by ordinance or otherwise, impose upon him.

A Recorder’s Court is hereby established, and the Recorder, who may be chosen from the Aldermen elected or from the other citizens of the town, is hereby vested with all the powers and authority of a General Sessions Court in criminal case, and shall have authority to try all offenses against the peace and dignity of the town of Rogersville, and all violations of the ordinances of said corporation; provided, however, that a change of venue may be had in any cause when affidavit is made by the accused and one disinterested party, that justice, in their opinion, will not be meted out by the Recorder, to any Alderman of the town of Rogersville, who is hereby authorized to try such cases; and it is further provided that in case of absence of the Recorder from the town, any Alderman of the town may act as Recorder might in the trial of any criminal charge. In event any appeal may be taken from the judgment of the Recorder or any Alderman in any matter or from any fine or imprisonment imposed for violation of any of the ordinances of said town, it shall be to the Circuit Court of Hawkins County, Tennessee. The person so appealing shall give bond and security for the payment of such fines and costs, but said bond shall be in double the amount of said fine and costs. It shall be the duty of the Recorder to keep an accurate minute of all the proceedings of the Town Council in a book, which shall be provided for that purpose, which shall be at all times subject to inspection by any taxpayer. He shall issue privilege licenses and collect taxes on the same, and shall keep a correct account of the same and account therefor, and shall have supervision and care of the other town property, unless otherwise provided by ordinance. The Recorder may be required by ordinance to act as Treasurer of the town,¹ and shall perform such other duties as shall be imposed upon him by ordinance of Council. The Town Treasurer shall receive from the Chief of Police (and Recorder when the Recorder does not fill the position of the Treasurer), take care of, and keep a correct account of all funds of whatever nature which may come into his hands. He shall keep such books as the Town Council may direct. He shall make out, present, and file with the Mayor, or such officer as the Council may direct, quarterly, or as often as required by the Council, a full and explicit account and report of the finances under his control, exhibiting statement of receipts and expenditures of all kinds, which reports the Council may have published for the information of the town. Before entering

¹See section 13 for a provision abolishing the office of treasurer and requiring the recorder to perform the duties of treasurer.
upon their duties the Treasurer and Recorder shall give bond with security to
the town of Rogersville in double the amount likely to come into their hands,
conditioned on the faithful performance and discharge of all duties pertaining
to their respective offices and that they will accurately and honestly account for
all the moneys coming into their hands belonging to said Corporation. And in
the event the same person is elected Treasurer and Recorder, he shall give bond
covering the duties of the two offices. And the Chief of Police shall likewise give
such bond in double the amount likely to come into his hands with good security
to be approved by the Town Council, conditioned also for the faithful
performance of all duties pertaining to his office for the diligent collecting and
faithful accounting for all money that shall or ought to come into his hands by
virtue of his said office, including fines, forfeitures and other moneys coming
into his hands or that should come into his hands due to said town of Rogersville
or otherwise, and the Chief of Police shall be liable on his said bond for failure
to collect money, return process, or properly pay over money to said Corporation
or the ones entitled thereto collected by process or otherwise coming into his
hands by virtue of his office. All such bonds shall be made payable to the Town
of Rogersville, shall be carefully filed and preserved and said Treasurer,
Recorder and Chief of Police shall as often as required render to the Board of
Mayor and Aldermen full and complete report covering the finances collected
and disbursed and under control of each of them. [As amended by Priv. Acts
1929, ch. 298, § 1(b); Priv. Acts 1965, ch. 189, §§ 1 and 6; and Priv. Acts 1989,
ch. 36, § 3]

FEES RECEIVED BY THE RECORDER,
CHIEF OF POLICE, AND TREASURER

Section 12. Be it further enacted, That the Recorder and Chief of Police
shall receive such fees as Justices of the Peace and Constables are authorized
to receive for rendering judgments, issuing, and service or processes, etc., and
they and the Treasurer shall receive other fees for other services as the Council
may allow them.

However, all fees and emoluments received by and accruing to the Office
of the Recorder are hereby declared to be the property of the Corporation and
the Recorder shall account for and turn over to the Corporation such fees and
emoluments as are received by him, in the same manner as provided for other

1For other provisions dealing with the recorder, see section 4 of the
charter and footnote thereto.
For other provisions dealing with the chief of police, see section 4 of the
charter and footnotes thereto.
For other provisions dealing with the treasurer, see section 11 of the
charter and footnotes thereto.

**RECORDER--DUTIES AND COMPENSATION**

Section 13. The office of treasurer of the Town of Rogersville is hereby abolished, and the recorder of said town shall perform the duties of treasurer, and shall collect and disburse all moneys and revenues due or to become due the town, including water revenues, and shall keep all books and records necessary to be kept in connection with said office. In addition to the duties to be performed by the Recorder as herein set forth, the Recorder shall perform the duties of Secretary to the Water Commission.


**POWER OF THE MAYOR TO APPOINT COMMITTEES AND POLICE OFFICERS**

Section 14. Be it further enacted, That the Mayor shall have the power to appoint all committees, fix the number, and prescribe the duties of same and of each member thereof.

The mayor shall hire such policemen for such terms as the Council may authorize, including emergency policeman, and such shall be directly responsible to the chief of police and to the mayor.  [As amended by Priv. Acts 1965, ch. 189, § 7]

**POLICE AUTHORITY AND COMPENSATION OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE**

Section 15. Be it further enacted, That the police authority of the corporation shall extend one mile beyond the corporate limits, in every direction, to prevent fighting, quarreling, loud cursing, or swearing, or other unnecessary noise, boisterous or disorderly conduct, and disorderly assemblages or meetings, and to suppress bawdy houses and houses of ill fame, and for these purposes the Town Council may enact all such laws as shall be necessary in carrying out the

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1See also section 4 and footnote thereto and section 11 and footnotes thereto.

2See also section 11 of the charter for other duties of the mayor.

3See also section 4 of the charter and footnotes thereto.
object and meaning of this charter, and the Town Marshal, who shall be the
Chief of Police, shall have authority, and shall also those employed under him,
to arrest offenders without warrant anywhere within the corporate limits or for
any of the offenses named in this section within one mile of said limits; and with
a warrant anywhere in the county. That when any person is arrested by the
Chief of Police or deputies without warrants in hand, he shall proceed to have
one issued and served, and the party notified of the time and place of trial, after
which the Recorder may take bond of the party in such amount as he shall deem
sufficient, conditioned to be void if the party shall appear at the time and place
fixed for the trial and not depart the court without leave, and on failure to do so
to pay the amount of the bond.

The salary of the Chief of Police shall be fixed from time to time by the
Board of Mayor and Aldermen. [As amended by Priv. Acts 1965, ch. 189, § 1; and
Priv. Acts 1967, ch. 48, § 1]

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN--TERMINATION OF OFFICE

Section 16. Be it further enacted, That the Mayor and Council holding
office in said town of Rogersville at the time of the passage of this Act shall
constitute the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of said town of Rogersville under
all the provisions and powers of this Act, excepting their election, only until the
time fixed by this Act for the election of a Mayor and Board of Aldermen by the
terms of this charter or act of incorporation.

CHARTER CONSTITUTES A PUBLIC ACT

Section 17. Be it further enacted, That this Act is declared to be a public
law, and may be read in evidence in all courts of law and equity, and all
ordinances, resolutions, and proceedings of the Town Council may be provided
by the seal of the corporation, attested by the Recorder; and when printed and
published by the authority of the Council, the same shall be received as evidence
in all courts and places without further proof, when certified by the Recorder.

CORPORATE LIMITS

Section 18. Be it further enacted, That the boundary and limits of said
Town of Rogersville shall be by surface measurement as follows: Beginning at
a post, west side of the old J. M. Gray garden; thence North 34 degrees West 495
feet to the northwest corner of Gray’s yard; thence North 33 degrees West 1300

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1 See also section 3 of the charter and footnotes thereto.

2 The corporate boundaries as set out herein have been altered by
annexation ordinances of record in the recorder's office.
feet to a stake on the side of the hill above and near the old home of Al Burns; thence North 51 degrees East 2,750 feet to a stake on the point of a ridge; thence north 34 degrees East 1,000 feet to a stake on the side of the knob, north of the house of Henry Johnson, near a pine; thence North 65 degrees East 650 feet to a stake on the side of the knob; thence North 39 degrees East 700 feet to a stake on the side of the knob, near the house of Pat Francisco; thence North 66 degrees East 1,050 feet to a stake between the old house and the new house of Jake Snapheirs; thence South 62 degrees East 1,365 feet to a stake in the center of an alley; thence South 32 degrees East, along the center of the alley, 1,100 feet to a stake on the North edge of the U. S. Highway 11-W (also being Main Street in said town); thence easterly with the northern margin of said Highway to a watercourse or drain in the hollow, immediately east of the site of the old Presley house; thence down said drain in a southerly direction to the northern bank of Crockett’s Creek; thence up Crockett’s Creek in an easterly direction to the intersection of the northern bank of said Creek with the southern margin of a 30 foot street recently opened by the County; thence with the southern margin of said street in an easterly direction to a point in the property line of the Rogersville High School property, at the intersection of said street with the northern margin of another street opened up by the County; thence following the outside boundaries of the Rogersville High School property (but not so as to include said property), five (5) calls as follows: South 65 degrees 35 minutes West 181.5 feet; South 5 degrees West 387 feet; South 54 degrees 19 minutes East 263.4 feet to a point in the Northern margin of McKinney Avenue as recently extended through the Nelson Addition; South 74 degrees 59 minutes East 418.35 feet to a steel pin; South 80 degrees 2 minutes East 335.8 feet to a point; thence leaving the Rogersville High School property, and running thence South 55 degrees 53 minutes West 510.5 feet to an angle iron at corner of the lands of the U.S.A. (TVA); thence with line of the lands of the U.S.A. (TVA), six (6) calls as follows: South 55 degrees 53 minutes West 425 feet to an angle iron; South 53 degrees 34 minutes West 881 feet to an iron pin in fence line; South 29 degrees 35 minutes East 290 feet to a fence angle; South 17 degrees 8 minutes East 140 feet to a fence corner; South 74 degrees West 431 feet to a square post in fence line; thence leaving the TVA property, and running thence South 59 degrees West 1,163.5 feet to a stake in the old W. D. Kenner field on top of the hill; thence South 77 degrees West 1,000 feet to a stake at the foot of the knob back of the old college, and on the old college property; thence South 67 degrees West 350 feet to a stake on the old college property near a street; thence South 22 1/3 degrees East 675 feet to a stake on the side of the hill; thence South 73 degrees West, across the hollow, 350 feet to a stake on side of the hill; thence North 16 degrees West 280 feet to a stake on the top of the hill; thence South 64 degrees West 1,210 feet to a stake on the Old Bradley property, near Luntsford’s line; thence a southwest course to a point 100 feet Southeast to the house of Luntsford on the Tuggle’s Hill Road; thence along the east side of said Road to
the southern margin of State Highways 66 and 70, and crossing same on the same degree to the northern margin thereof; thence easterly, with the northern margin of said road to the common boundary line between the J. M. Gray heirs property, and the Armstrong heirs subdivision; thence northerly with the common boundary line between said subdivision and the said Gray heirs property (the same being an old boundary line, with the new owners having succeeded in title to parts of same) to the point of beginning. [As amended by Priv. Acts 1917, ch. 342, § 1; Priv. Acts 1925, ch. 477, § 2; and Priv. Acts 1953, ch. 462, § 1]

**POWER TO LEVY TAXES**

Section 19. Be if further enacted, That the town of Rogersville shall have the right and power to levy and collect taxes upon all property and privileges within the limits of said town which are, or shall be hereafter, made taxable by the laws of this State. [As amended by Priv. Acts 1921, ch. 269, § 2]

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE**

Section 20. Be it further enacted, That the office of Justice of the Peace for the said town of Rogersville be, and the same is, hereby created, and that a Justice of the Peace be elected by the qualified voters of said town on the fourth Saturday in May, 1911, whose term of office shall be until first day of September, 1912, or until his successor is elected and qualified.

**POWER TO PROVIDE WATER FACILITIES; WATER COMMISSION**

Section 21. (a) The town is hereby authorized and empowered through its mayor and board of aldermen, or as may be otherwise provided by law, to provide the town with waterworks, sewers, drains, etc. and to contract for the same by means of a bond issue or issues or as otherwise provided by law.

(b) There shall be a water commission established consisting of six (6) persons. The three (3) incumbent members of the current water commission shall continue to hold office until the conclusion of their current terms. Thereafter, those three (3) positions shall continue to be elected by the board of mayor and aldermen for terms of six (6) years. The mayor shall appoint from among the members of the board of mayor and aldermen to the water commission three (3) members who shall serve during their current terms of

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1See also section 9 of the charter and the footnote thereto.

2See also section 11 of the charter for provisions dealing with the recorder's court.
office. The commissioners shall elect from among the three (3) non-aldermen commissioners the chair of the water commission. The chair shall preside at all meetings of the commission and shall not vote on any issue brought before the commission except to cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie vote.

(c) At every meeting of the commission, attendance by four (4) or more of the commissioners, including the chair, shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting the business of the commission.

(d) A commissioner may not be removed except for charges of misconduct or incapacity or a misdemeanor in office after a written charge has been filed against the commissioner and notice and a hearing given to the commissioner so charged. The board of mayor and aldermen shall hold a hearing on any charge, and may remove a commissioner upon sustaining a charge by a vote of at least five (5) members.

(e) The recorder of the town shall serve as treasurer of the water commission.¹ [As amended by Priv. Acts 1965, ch. 189, § 8; and replaced by Priv. Acts 1995, ch. 71]

INITIAL OFFICERS OF MUNICIPALITY AND TERMS OF OFFICE

Section 22. Be it further enacted, That the following named citizens of said town of Rogersville be, and they are, hereby appointed to be the first officers of said municipality to wit: W. M. Pierce, Mayor; J. S. Simpson, J. B. Murrell, John Walker, W. N, Guthrie, F. A. Shotwell, G. S. Stanstill, Aldermen; R. C. Coleman, Recorder; C. W. Margraves, City Attorney; B. C. Pearson, Chief of Police, these being the officers of said corporation at the time of the repeal of the charter of said town at this session of the Legislature, and it is further provided that said persons shall fill said offices, respectively, for the unexpired terms they would have held under the former charter and until their successors are elected and qualified under the provisions of this Act. The other subordinate officers of the old municipality shall continue in their respective offices during their unexpired term and until their successors are chosen and qualified; and said Board of Mayor and Aldermen, as well as the other officers, shall have and exercise in their respective capacities all the rights, powers, duties, and privileges imposed on such Board and officers by this Act.

PERPETUATION OF RIGHTS AND LIABILITIES

Section 23. Be it further enacted, That all the properties, easements, taxes, fines, forfeitures, contracts, claims, etc., owned by or belonging to or connected with the old municipality, and all bonds, debts, liabilities, and

¹See also section 13 of the charter for provisions requiring the recorder to act as secretary to the water commission.
obligations of whatsoever kind resting upon the old municipality shall be, and
are, hereby transferred to, vested in, and fastened upon the new municipality
of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the town of Rogersville herein created.

PERPETUATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Section 24. Be it further enacted, That all ordinances and resolutions of
the old municipalities heretofore existing and not in conflict with this charter
or existing law shall be and remain in full force and effect as the ordinances and
resolutions of the new municipality of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the
town of Rogersville, created herein, until modified or repealed by its Board of
Mayor and Aldermen.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF ACT

Section 25. Be it further enacted, That this Act take effect from and after
its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed June 30, 1911.

N. Baxter, Jr.,
Speaker of the Senate.

A. M. Leach
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Approved July 4, 1911.

Ben W. Hooper,
Governor.
RELATED ACTS

Priv. Acts 1939, ch. 371,
"An Act to Regulate Sunday Movies"................................. C-21

Priv. Acts 1999, ch. 60,
"Privilege tax on the occupancy of any rooms, lodgings, etc." .......... C-22

Priv. Acts 2002, ch. 145,
"Board of Education; duties, powers and qualifications of members..... C-27
CHAPTER NO. 371

House Bill No. 701

(By Testerman)

A BILL to be entitled, An Act to regulate Sunday movies in Rogersville, Hawkins County, Tennessee.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, That before Sunday movies shall be lawful and legal to operate on Sunday in the city of Rogersville, Hawkins County, Tennessee, it shall be the duty of the Election Commissioners to hold an election in said city for all qualified voters of said city to cast their ballots in an election to ascertain whether or not the majority of the voters vote for or against Sunday movies; an election may be held at any time that five (5%) per cent of the legal voters petition for said election.

Section 2. Be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed February 27, 1939.

John Ed O'Dell,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Blan R. Maxwell,
Speaker of the Senate.

Approved March 6, 1939.

Prentice Cooper,
Governor.
CHAPTER NO. 60

HOUSE BILL NO. 1997

By Representative Givens

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1991

By Senator Williams

AN ACT relative to the levy of a privilege tax on the occupancy of any rooms, lodgings or accommodations furnished to transients by any hotel, inn, tourist camp, tourist court, tourist cabin, motel or any place in which rooms, lodgings, or accommodations are furnished to transients for a consideration in Rogersville, Tennessee.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. As used in this act unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Consideration" means the consideration charged, whether or not received, for the occupancy in a hotel valued in money whether to be received in money, goods, labor or otherwise, including all receipts, cash, credits, property and services of any kind or nature without any deduction therefrom whatsoever. Nothing in this definition shall be construed to imply that consideration is charged when the room, lodging, space or accommodation provided to the person is complimentary from the operator and no consideration is charged to or received from any person.

(2) "Hotel" means any structure or space, or any portion thereof, which is occupied or intended or designed for occupancy by transients for dwelling, lodging or sleeping purposes, and includes any hotel, inn, tourist camp, tourist court, tourist cabin, motel, or any place in which rooms, lodgings, accommodations or spaces are furnished to transients for a consideration.

(3) "Occupancy" means the use or possession, or the right to the use or possession, of any room, lodgings, spaces or accommodations in any hotel.

(4) "Operator" means the person operating the hotel whether as owner, lessee or otherwise and includes any governmental unit.

(5) "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, joint venture, association, social club, fraternal organization, joint stock company, corporation,
estate, trust, business trust, receiver, trustee, syndicate, governmental unit or any other group or combination acting as a unit.

(6) "Tax collection official" means the finance officer or other person designated by the municipal legislative body to collect the tax imposed by this act.

(7) "Transient" means any person who exercises occupancy or is entitled to occupancy for any rooms, lodgings, spaces or accommodations in a hotel for a period of less than thirty (30) continuous days.

SECTION 2. The Legislative Body of the Town of Rogersville, Tennessee, is authorized to levy a privilege tax upon the privilege of occupancy in any hotel of each transient in the amount of seven percent (7%) of the consideration charged by the operator. Such tax is a privilege tax upon the transient occupying such room and is to be collected as provided in this act. [As amended by Priv. Acts 2007, ch. 8]

SECTION 3. The proceeds received by the town from the tax shall be retained by the town and deposited into the general fund of the town.

SECTION 4. Such tax shall be added by each and every operator to each invoice prepared by the operator for the occupancy of the hotel and given directly or transmitted to the transient. Such tax shall be collected by such operator from the transient and remitted to the Town of Rogersville, Tennessee.

When a person has maintained occupancy for thirty (30) continuous days, that person shall receive from the operator a refund or credit for the tax previously collected or charged, and the operator shall receive credit for the amount of such tax if previously paid or reported to the town.

SECTION 5.

(a) The tax levied shall be remitted by all operators who lease, rent or charge for any rooms, lodgings, spaces or accommodations in hotels within the town to the tax collection official, such tax to be remitted to such officer not later than the twentieth (20th) day of each month for the preceding month. The operator is required to collect the tax from the transient at the time of the presentation of the invoice for such occupancy as may be the custom of the operator, and if credit is granted by the operator to the transient, then the obligation to the town entitled to such tax shall be that of the operator.
(b) For the purpose of compensating the operator for remitting the tax levied by this act, the operator shall be allowed two percent (2%) of the amount of the tax due and remitted to the tax collection official in the form of a deduction in submitting the report and paying the amount due by such operator, provided the amount due was not delinquent at the time of payment.

SECTION 6. The tax collection official shall be responsible for the collection of such tax. A monthly tax return shall be filed under oath with the tax collection official by the operator with such number of copies thereof as the tax collection official may reasonably require for the collection of such tax. The report of the operator shall include such facts and information as may be deemed reasonable for the verification of the tax due. The form of such report shall be developed by the tax collection official and approved by the Town Legislative Body prior to use. The tax collection official shall audit each operator in the town at least once a year and shall report on the audits made on a quarterly basis to the Town Legislative Body. The Town Legislative Body is authorized to adopt resolutions to provide reasonable rules and regulations for the implementation of the provisions of this act, including the form for such reports.

SECTION 7. No operator of a hotel shall advertise or state in any manner, whether directly or indirectly, that the tax or any part thereof will be assumed or absorbed by the operator or that it will not be added to the rent, or that if added, any part will be refunded.

SECTION 8. Taxes collected by an operator which are not remitted to the tax collection official on or before the due dates are delinquent. An operator is liable for interest on such delinquent taxes from the due date at the rate of per annum, and is liable for an additional penalty of one percent (1%) for each month or fraction thereof such taxes are delinquent. Such interest and penalty shall become a part of the tax herein required to be remitted. Each occurrence of willful refusal of an operator to collect or remit the tax or willful refusal of a transient to pay the tax imposed is a violation of this act and shall be punishable by a civil penalty not in excess of fifty dollars ($50.00).

SECTION 9. It is the duty of every operator liable for the collection and payment to the Town of Rogersville any tax imposed by this act to keep and preserve for a period of three (3) years all records necessary to determine the amount of tax due and payable to the town. The tax collection official has the right to inspect such records at all reasonable times.

SECTION 10. The tax collection official in administering and enforcing the provisions of this act has as additional powers, those powers and duties with
respect to collecting taxes as provided in Title 67 of Tennessee Code Annotated or otherwise provided by law.

For services in administering and enforcing the provisions of this act, the tax collection official is entitled to retain as a commission of the taxes collected.

Upon any claim of illegal assessment and collection, the taxpayer has the remedies provided in Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 67-1-911. It is the intent of this act that the provisions of law which apply to the recovery of state taxes illegally assessed and collected shall also apply to the tax levied under the authority of this act; provided, the tax collection official shall possess those powers and duties as provided in Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 67-1-707, with respect to adjustment and settlement with taxpayers of all errors of taxes collected under the authority of this act and to direct the refunding of same.

With respect to the adjustment and settlement with taxpayers, all errors of town taxes collected by the tax collection official under authority of this act shall be refunded by the tax collection official. Notice of any tax paid under protest shall be given to the tax collection official, and suit for recovery shall be brought against such tax collection official.

SECTION 11. The tax levied pursuant to the provisions of this act shall only apply in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 67-4-1425.

SECTION 12. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 13. This act shall have no effect unless it is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Legislative Body of the Town of Rogersville, Tennessee. Its approval or non-approval shall be proclaimed by the Presiding Officer of the Legislative Body of the Town of Rogersville, Tennessee and shall be certified by such Presiding Officer to the Secretary of State.

SECTION 14. For the purpose of approving or rejecting the provisions of this act, it shall be effective upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect upon being approved as provided in Section 13.
PASSED: May 27, 1999

s/Jimmy Naifeh
JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

s/John S. Wilder
JOHN S. WILDER
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this _____ day of _____ 1999

DON SUNDQUIST, GOVERNOR

Pursuant to Article III, Section 18, of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, the Governor had House Bill No. 1997 in his possession longer than ten (10) days, so therefore the bill becomes law without the Governor's signature.
AN ACT to provide for the number, election, and terms of members of the board of education of the Town of Rogersville, Tennessee, and to provide for duties, powers and qualifications of members of such board of education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. The board of education of the Town of Rogersville shall consist of five (5) members elected at large by the qualified voters. Board members shall be elected to staggered four (4) year terms so that every two (2) years the terms of approximately one-half (½) the members of the board expire. Persons elected in the regular November election shall take office on January 1 following the election.

SECTION 2. To establish staggered four-year terms and in order that no term of any incumbent board member be cut short, board members shall be elected as follows: Board members to serve in seats 1 and 2, presently held by William E. Phillips II and R. Frank Testerman, shall be elected in the November 2008 election, to serve a term of two (2) years. Board members to serve in seats 3 and 4, presently held by Dan Brooks and Reed Matney, shall be elected in the November 2008 election to serve a term of four (4) years. A board member to serve in seat 5, presently held by Joyce Simon, shall be elected in the November 2010 election. Thereafter, board members shall be elected to four-year terms as the term of each board member expires. [As replaced by Priv. Acts 2008, ch. 90, § 1]

SECTION 3. The term of any present board member shall continue until a successor is elected and qualified or until a vacancy otherwise occurs.

SECTION 4. The board of education of the Town of Rogersville shall have the same powers, duties, privileges and qualifications as other municipal boards of education established pursuant to Title 49.
SECTION 5. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 6. This act shall have no effect unless it is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the legislative body of the Town of Rogersville. Its approval or nonapproval shall be proclaimed by the presiding officer of the legislative body of the Town of Rogersville and certified to the secretary of state.

SECTION 7. For the purpose of approving or rejecting the provisions of this act, it shall be effective upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, it shall become effective as provided in Section 6.

PASSED: May 15, 2002

s/Jimmy Naifeh
JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

s/John S. Wilder
JOHN S. WILDER
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 22nd day of May 2002

s/Don Sundquist
DON SUNDQUIST, GOVERNOR
CHARTER AND RELATED ACTS FOR THE TOWN OF
ROGERSVILLE, TENNESSEE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>CHAPTER</th>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>519</td>
<td>Basic charter act.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>520*</td>
<td>Repeals chapter 315, private acts of 1903, which was an act to reincorporate the Town of Rogersville.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915</td>
<td>349**</td>
<td>Abutting property law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>Amends chapter 519, section 18, private acts of 1911.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917</td>
<td>418***</td>
<td>Authorizes a $25,000 bond issue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917</td>
<td>824***</td>
<td>Amends chapter 517, private acts of 1911, which was an act authorizing a $25,000 bond issue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>103***</td>
<td>Amends chapter 824, private acts of 1917.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>130***</td>
<td>Authorizes the sale of the McMinn Academy property.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>683**</td>
<td>Abutting property law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>142**</td>
<td>Amends ch. 683, private acts of 1919.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>256***</td>
<td>Authorizes a $25,000 bond issue.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This act has not been codified with the charter as set out herein because it did not amend the existing charter as set out in Chapter 519, private acts of 1911, but rather repealed the previously existing charter as set out in chapter 315, private acts of 1903.

**This act has not been codified with the charter as set out herein because, in general, the purpose and provisions of the act are now provided by the general law applicable to all cities.

***Acts which do not have a continuing application, such as acts authorizing special bond issues for particular purposes or the sale of property, were not included in the foregoing unofficial compilation of the town's charter.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>CHAPTER</th>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>264**</td>
<td>Amends ch. 349, private acts of 1915.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>Amends chapter 519, sections 2(17) and 19, private acts of 1911.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>913***</td>
<td>Amends chapter 418, private acts of 1917, which was an act authorizing a $25,000 bond issue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>131***</td>
<td>Validates a $25,000 bond issue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>640**</td>
<td>Amends ch. 683, private acts of 1919.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>Amends chapter 519, sections 10, 13, and 18, private acts of 1911.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927</td>
<td>772**</td>
<td>Amends ch. 683, private acts of 1919.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>Amends chapter 519, sections 4 and 11, private acts of 1911.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>367**</td>
<td>Amends ch. 683, private acts of 1919.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>123**</td>
<td>Authorizes a $20,000 bond issue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>702</td>
<td>Amends chapter 519, section 2, private acts of 1911.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>Amends chapter 519, section 2(9), private acts of 1911.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>471</td>
<td>Amends chapter 519, sections 2(17) and 6(1), private acts of 1911.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>841**</td>
<td>Authorizes a $25,000 bond issue.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>CHAPTER</th>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>Related act which regulates Sunday movies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1949</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Amends chapter 519, section 2, private acts of 1911.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>462</td>
<td>Amends chapter 519, section 18, private acts of 1911.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>Amends chapter 519, section 12 and 13, private acts of 1911.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>Amends chapter 702, section 1, private acts of 1931, which amended chapter 519, section 2, private acts of 1911.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>Amends chapter 519, private acts of 1911, sections 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, and 21, and provides for a vice-mayor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>Amends chapter 519, section 15, private acts of 1911.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>Amends chapter 519, sections 4 and 13, private acts of 1911.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>Amends ch. 203, section 1, private acts of 1961.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>Amends ch. 519, section 4, private acts of 1911.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>Salaries of employees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>Civil service system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Amends sections 3, 6, and 11.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>Replaces § 21 relative to the water commission.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Related act relative to occupancy tax.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>Related act relative to board of education.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>Amends related act relative to board of education.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This act was never approved locally and is therefore not included in the foregoing compilation of the town's charter.*